

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 05075 161450Z

43

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AF-06 ARA-06

EUR-12 NEA-10 /092 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2965

INFO AMEMBASSY SAANA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5075

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN, YE

SUBJ: KOREA AT THE 30TH UNGA: YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

1. AT MEETING OCTOBER 15 WITH YAR PERMREP AMBASSADOR MAKKI, AMBASSADOR SHERER OF USUN BRIEFLY REVIEWED US POSITION ON KOREA, STRESSING THAT IT WAS MAJOR SECURITY CONCERN FOR US, AND ASKED MAKKI ABOUT THE POSITION OF YEMEN. MAKKI REPLIED THAT YEMEN WILL MAINTAIN ITS ORIGINAL POSITION ON KOREA, I.E., VOTE YES ON THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION, OF WHICH YAR IS CO-SPONSOR, AND VOTE NO ON THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION.

2. MAKKI THEN LAUNCHED INTO AN IMPASSIONED DEFENSE AND EXPLANATION OF THE YAR POSITION, PUTTING ENTIRE BLAME ON SOUTH KOREA. YAR HAD WARNED ROK AT THE TIME OF THE 29TH UNGA LAST YEAR THAT UNLESS SOUTH KOREA PRODUCED TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF ITS DESIRE FOR COOPERATION, BY ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT PRESENCE IN YEMEN AND A MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC AID PROGRAM, THAT YAR WOULD HAVE NO REASON TO ADOPT A MORE BALANCED POSITION BETWEEN THE TWO KOREAS. MAKKI SAID THAT SINCE SOUTH KOREA HAD DONE NOTHING, THERE WAS NO WAY THAT THE YAR COULD, WITH DIGNITY, ALTER ITS POSITION ON THE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 USUN N 05075 161450Z

KOREAN RESOLUTIONS.

3. SHERER TOLD MAKKI IN CLEAR TERMS THAT THE ISSUE UNDER DISCUSSION WAS NOT JUST YEMEN'S TIES WITH SOUTH KOREA, BUT US-YEMEN RELATIONS. A HOSTILE POSITION BY THE YAR ON AN ISSUE OF MAJOR SECURITY CONCERN TO THE US WOULD HARDLY BE CONSISTENT WITH THE IMPROVED STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND YEMEN. IN ADDITION, FOREIGN MINISTER AL-ASNAG AND OTHER HIGH OFFICIALS HAD GIVEN ASSURANCES TO OUR AMBASSADOR IN SANA THAT THE YAR WISHED TO PURSUE A MORE BALANCED POLICY TOWARDS BOTH KOREAS.

4. MAKKI REMAINED ADAMANT, SAYING YEMEN WAS IN DIFFICULT AND EMBARRASSING, SITUATION, BUT REPEATING THAT THERE WAS NO WAY FOR YEMEN TO CHANGE ITS POSITION AND STILL MAINTAIN ITS DIGNITY. AT END OF CONVERSATION, IN RESPONSE TO SHERER'S REQUEST FOR COOPERATION ON VOTING PRIORITY, MAKKI ALLUDED TO POSSIBILITY THAT YAR COULD MANAGE TO BE ABSENT AT KEY MOMENT. WE CONSIDER THIS POSSIBILITY TO BE VERY SLIGHT.
MOYNIHAN

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